

Application No.: 10/686,715
Art Unit: 3723

Attorney Docket No. 22671.01
Confirmation No. 8819

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 5, and canceled Claims 3 and 4. Claims 1 and 5-16 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 5 are independent claims

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 7-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herdman (U.S. Patent No. 1,828,142) or Judd (U.S. Patent No. 3,661,048) in view of Whiteford (U.S. Patent No. 6,164,166). The Examiner indicated that Claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 4 and intervening Claim 3. Also, allowable Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 9, as amended, and corresponding dependent Claims 3-4 and 11-12 are allowable over the prior art of record.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Litman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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RCL:DHT